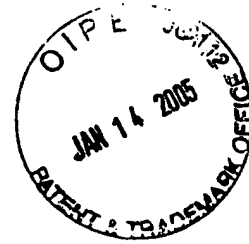


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS



Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate therein the subject matter of allowable claim 2. Therefore, this claim is in condition for allowance. Claims 3-19 have been allowed.

There remaining no issue at bar, allowance of claims 1 and 3-19 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

YASUHIRO NOSE ET AL

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kurt Kelman", written over a horizontal line.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on JANUARY 12, 2005.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maria Guastella", written over a horizontal line.

Maria Guastella

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